

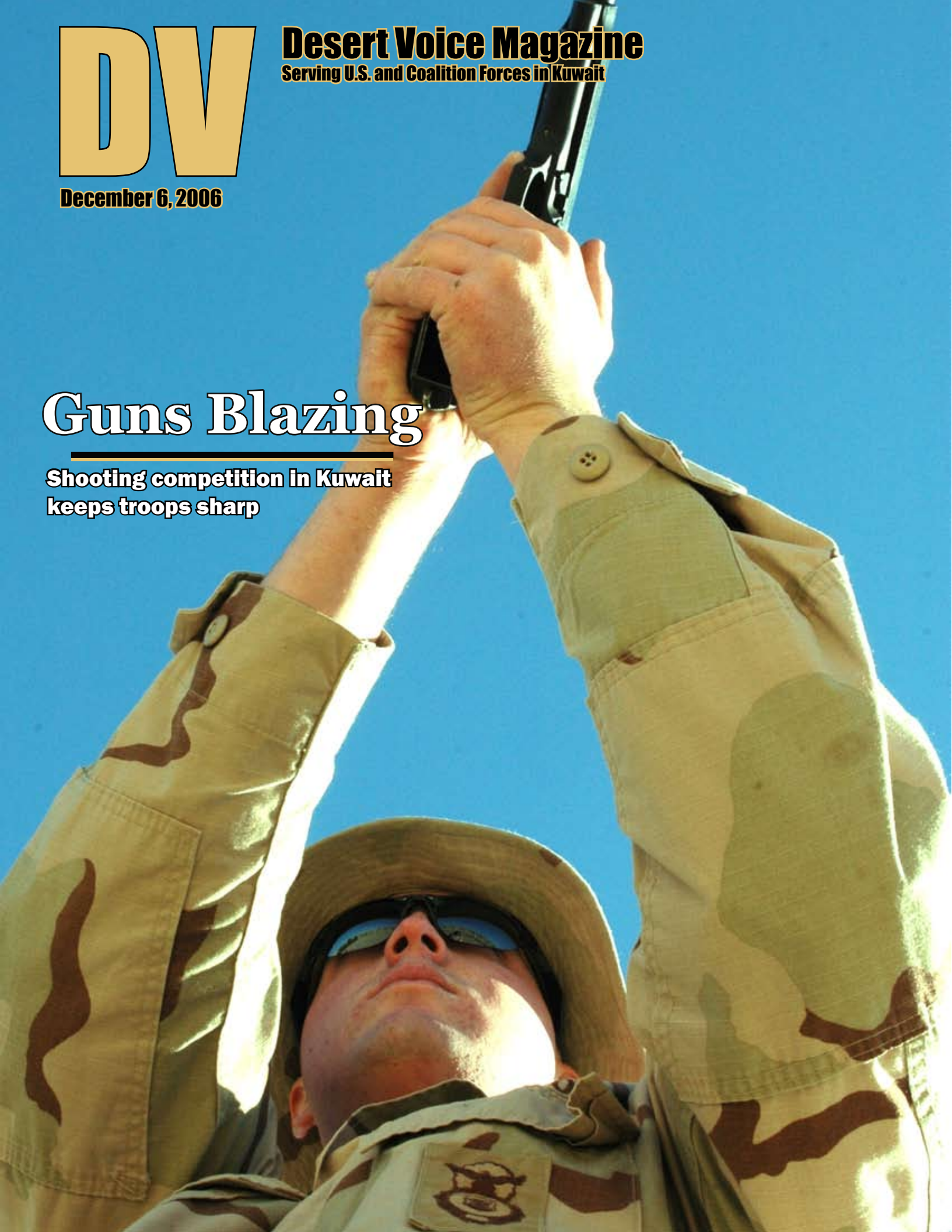
DV

Desert Voice Magazine
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

December 6, 2006

Guns Blazing

**Shooting competition in Kuwait
keeps troops sharp**



December 2006

To Our Third Army Family

As another year draws to a close, I want to thank each of you and your families for your service and sacrifice in the defense of our Nation. Reflecting on your accomplishments over the past year, I continue to be impressed by your attitude, motivation, and commitment. Because of you, America is a better and safer place.

Your contributions while America is at war are critical and continue to play a significant role in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. In more than 36 years of military service, I have not served with or commanded a better group of men and women. We will face new challenges in the coming year and we will meet them with the same professionalism Third Army's reputation is built on.

Traditionally, this is the time of year to spend with family. Many of you will spend the holidays with your extended Third Army family away from home supporting the mission. It is this kind of personal sacrifice that makes our Armed Forces great and keeps our Nation strong. For some of you, this may be the first Holiday Season you have been at home in several years. Take advantage of the time with your family and loved ones.

Wherever you are, reflect on the events of the past year, count your blessings, and celebrate the promise of the future.

From my family to yours – Happy Holidays!



R. Steven Whitcomb
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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On the cover

Airman 1st Class Don Luckinbill, a security forces military policeman with the 886th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, aims his weapon downrange during a recent shooting competition.

Photo by Spc. Debrah A. Robertson

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6Q

Staff Sgt. Kevin Thomas, NETCOM Career Counselor of the Year

Six questions with Staff Sgt. Kevin Thomas, Network Enterprise Technology Command Career Counselor of the Year. Thomas will now represent his command at the Secretary of the Army Career Counselor of the Year Board in January.

Q: What does winning the Network Enterprise Technology Command Career Counselor of the Year mean to you on a personal and a professional level?

A: That dedication to my job and my Soldiers did not go unnoticed. I've had the support of so many fellow Soldiers who encouraged and mentored me throughout my career including: Command Sgt. Maj. Harbolt, Command Sgt. Maj. Fleming, Command Sgt. Maj. Smith, Sgt. Maj. Jasanowski and Sgt. 1st Class Street. There are so many others I can thank and name but you do not have enough space on your page!

What goes into preparing for this type of board?

My entire career as a noncommissioned officer prepared me for this board; just doing my job on a daily basis, and I was constantly given support from other NCOs throughout the brigade. They would approach me and ask me board questions to make sure I was always on my toes.

How important is retention in today's Army?

As a career counselor we are charged with sustaining an all volunteer force. We have the ability to affect Soldiers who impact the freedom of our nation.

Why should a Soldier consider reenlisting in the Army?

The Army provides a sense of pride and a



foundation for Soldiers that they can utilize throughout their military and civilian career. The Army provides an unmatched benefits program in addition to discipline, training and the motivation of one's ability to set goals and accomplish them. The Army is a leadership producing organization.

How will this experience help you mentor new Career Counselors?

I will strongly encourage all career counselors to take the initiative to compete at the Career Counselor of the Year Board because it is a career enhancing benefit. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing upcoming career counselors motivate and encourage other Soldiers to remain a member of the Army Strong team.

What did you win?

A \$250 gift certificate from AAFES, a Defender of Freedom trophy, a NETCOM Career Counselor of the Year ring and I earned the opportunity to represent my command at the Secretary of the Army Career Counselor of the Year Board in January 2007.



Pointing in the right d

Story and Photos by

Sgt. Thomas L. Day
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Third Army/U.S. Army Central troops dire

A four-day pass to sunny Doha, Qatar. No work, no worries. It's the military's four-day pass program for troops who need a break from their combat mission.

The trip starts with a friendly greeting from Sgt. Tim Monzon, a Missoula, Mont., native, who has worked at an airfield in Kuwait for Third Army/U.S. Army Central since December 2005. Monzon's job is to make sure the Soldiers do not miss their flights.

In Qatar is Warrant Officer 1 Patrick Earl. He is Rest and Recuperation (R&R) coordinator for the 40th Personnel Services Detachment. Earl receives the troops Monzon sends his direction, as well as troops coming from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Together, Earl and Monzon are like a quarterback and his third-down, go-to receiver.

The defense for Earl and Monzon is unpredictable, coming in the form of an overloaded flight, a cancelled flight or even stormy day.

"The flight schedules are real flexible," said Monzon. Compounding issues for Monzon: "Generally, only one flight a day (leaves for Qatar)."

There are easy days and there are hard ones. For Monzon, during the peak season, the number of incoming troops can exceed 100. Other times, when most deployed Soldiers are going on mid-tour leave or redeploying, are not so busy.



△ Spc. Jamie Vieke reviews the flight procedures and rules governing the R & R program in Qatar for a group about to take off. Vieke told the group about the three-drink-a-day limit for Soldiers in Qatar, and she also informed them their R&R pass only starts charging days after midnight of the day they arrive.

◁ Vieke (right) assists Master Sgt. Johnny Edwards on flight procedures before Edwards takes off for Doha, Qatar.

irection

ect traffic to Qatar

Usually the peak and slow seasons for Monzon and Earl mirror one another.

“The last couple of months we’ve been as slow as putting one person out (a day),” Monzon said.

“We rely on the Air Force to provide the flights,” said Earl, who operates out of Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. “Sometimes coordinating between the two services can be challenging.”

Slow days mean easier days; more incoming troops result in a busier day at work. Fewer Soldiers going on pass mean less of a hassle in claiming seats on flights going to Qatar.

No single flight goes to Qatar with the sole purpose of transporting Soldiers on pass, so both Kuwait and Qatar teams are forced to reserve seats as they become available.

“If we weren’t actually able to get them on a flight, we have them on stand by,” Monzon’s assistant, Spc. Jamie Viere said. Troops can be held for as long as several days for stand-by flights, Viere explained.

Tips...

1. Do not take your weapon, ammunition, knives, lighters or Gerber tools
2. Bring your DA 31 form, CAC card, kevlar, IBA, ear plugs and a padlock
3. During the winter months, bring your poly pros, coat or poncho liner for warmth on the plane
4. Bring a set of civilian clothes if possible (long sleeved shirt and pants with no logos). If the servicemember does not have civilian clothes, there is a closet to borrow from in Qatar.

Shooting competition brings troops together under fire

Spc. Debrah A. Robertson
Desert Voice Assistant Editor

The sky was a cool blue, the temperature crisp. Servicemembers stationed in Kuwait and southern Iraq mingled among neatly lined tables. The camaraderie was evident but competition is what brings these people together during the early hours of November.

For six days, the Air Force's 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Detachment 1, held its first shooting competition in Kuwait.

The lanes, prepared by the Airmen, looked new. Clean, unused target platforms stood unweathered downrange.

Months of preparations paid off. More than 166 servicemembers

from multiple military branches, including the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Coast Guard, signed up for the competition, said Air Force Master Sgt. Chuck Yates, a mission support flight, services, anti-terrorism/ force protection superintendent for the 586th, exceeding the overall goal of 150.

Civilians and Kuwait National Guardsmen were also among the competitors.

"We have been planning the event for over eight weeks," said Air force Lt. Col. Arthur E. Rozier, Commander of the 586th. "The work to get all the things built, briefings developed and rehearsals by the detachment constituted over 150 work hours to prepare for the event."

"We place a lot of pride on

the competition," said Yates. "Seeing it happen is rewarding.

Thirty-five Airmen from 14 different Air Force bases around the world came together for the project, he said.

"Our detachment team here at [Camp Patriot] has done everything needed to conduct the event in a safe, efficient and enjoyable manner," said Rozier. "Several of the competitors have commented on the event and said it is the best of its type they have attended."

Tech. Sgt. Michael Somuk, a security forces military policeman with the 886th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, described the atmosphere at the range as "comfortable with friendly competition."

Competition is important "to enhance the marksmanship ability of all the military members," said Rozier.

"It will put more faith in servicemembers in handling their weapons," said Airman 1st Class Don Luckinbill, also a security forces military policeman with the 886th ESFS.

"It all falls back on training," said Sr. Airman Matthew Krueger, another 886th security forces military policeman. "If we don't know what we're doing, we can't save our lives or the people we work with."

"It gives you more trigger time," said Airman 1st Class Travis Acevedo, a security forces military policeman with the 886th, about the competition. "When it comes time to use [your M9], you're not fiddling with your weapon."

While terrorists are doing



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

Master Sgt. Dallas Mathis, an Airman with the 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group performs his range safety official duties during a recent shooting competition.



Photo by Spc. Debrah A. Robertson

Airman 1st Class Travis Acevedo, with the 886th Expeditionary Security Force Security, scores a fellow servicemembers target during the competition. He drove down from Camp Bucca, Iraq, just to compete.

the “shoot and pray,” U.S. servicemembers are trained and proficient, said Acevedo.

“Overall, the performance [of the competitors] was very good and all the services did well,” said Rozier. “It’s good to see this much skill in the marksmanship of our servicemembers.”

So, after a morning of skillful marksmanship amid quite a few friendly competitors, the sun begins to warm the crisp desert air and the servicemembers begin to turn in their score cards, collect the expended brass and load into their vehicles to travel back to their home camps, some of them hours away.

And the winner is...

GOLD 10 Point Award

- 1 Sgt. 1st Class Donald Gimlen (Army)
- 2 Staff Sgt. Robert Baltimore (Air Force)

SILVER 8 Point Award

- 3 Master Sgt. Dallas Mathis (Air Force)
- 4 Tech. Sgt. Michael Somuk (Air Force)
- 5 Chief Petty Officer Eric Hingley (Navy)

BRONZE 6 Point Award

- 6 Staff Sgt. Sean Nichols (Air Force)
- 7 Lt. Col. Henri Lambert (Air Force)
- 8 Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Tierney (Navy)
- 9 Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy Gautier (Navy)

Best of the Best

When the Commander-in-Chief places his title onto an award a servicemember receives, that servicemember must have talent.

The President’s 100 is a prestigious award granted to competitors who finish in the top 10 percent of the National Rifle Association’s President’s Match.

It’s an honor bestowed upon few, but Lt. Col. Arthur Rozier, commander of the 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Detachment 1, has placed in the top 100 five times in the past eight years.

Being an awardee is not as simple as taking home a shiny plaque or trophy.

Rozier said he and his fellow President’s 100 members travel the country to train other servicemembers and law enforcement officers.

Rozier must also make the time to practice and keep his skills sharp, even while deployed.

“He does push-ups on dumbbells to make his wrists stronger and more stable,” said Air force Master Sgt. Dallas Mathis, acting deployed first sergeant with the 586th EMSG.

Using more than 10,000 rounds a year, Rozier spends a lot of his free time practicing his skill to perfection, said Air force Capt. James Arthur, deputy commander for the personnel services and force protection with the 586th.

“It is a great honor,” said Rozier of the award.



Col. Forrest Smith (right) enjoys a moment with a group of Kuwaiti Soldiers. Smith and Soldiers from the 32nd AAMDC had dinner with the Kuwaiti air defense Soldiers after the exercise was completed Nov. 21.

Partnering up to defend Kuwait

Story and Photos by

Sgt. Thomas L. Day

Desert Voice Staff Writer

Kuwaiti, American air defense teams train together

During exercise "Nation Shield," Kuwait is under attack. The Kuwaiti air defense assets have three hours to move north into position. Three hours to save a country.

For the Kuwaiti air defense teams in this training exercise, the stakes were high and perfection was demanded.

Air defense Soldiers from Third Army/U.S. Army Central were there to help.

"We're exchanging knowledge between Kuwaiti air defense and American air defense," said Chief Warrant Officer Keith Dailey of 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

The task was handed to the Kuwaiti 46th Air Defense Battery, with American advisors like Dailey by their side. The 46th was to operate the latest upgrade to the Patriot missile system, move into position within two hours, then be fully operational within an hour after arriving at the designated location.

"They moved out almost perfectly," said Sgt. Jason Green, an advisor who was embedded in the field with the 46th.

"This is a good opportunity to see how they're training with their systems," said Maj. Alan Wiernicki, the 32nd AAMDC operations officer.

"The US and Kuwait (air defense artillery) Soldiers have a long history of training together," said Lt. Col. Abel Villarreal, an air defense artillery officer based at the American Kuwait embassy. "Kuwait maintains PATRIOT with the latest capabilities similar to the US."

The Kuwaiti and American air defense Soldiers have worked together on training operations like this before.

This is the fourth exercise where Kuwaiti and American air defense units have trained together. A Kuwaiti air defense unit trained with American air defense teams at Fort Bliss, Texas, in August, 2005, for "Roving Sands 2005," which also included air defense units from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Long showers must wait

Taking shorter showers prevents taking no shower at all

Story and photo by

Spc. Debrah Robertson
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Paying special attention to that area right behind his ears, a Soldier is completely lathered in soap. The water feels great. He's worked hard today and nothing can compare to the water pressure on his aching back.

Then it happens.

First it's subtle. The stream falters and then drips. Hey, what happened? Looking up into the shower head, he begins turning the knobs. No luck.

There's another water shortage.

Depending on the camp, there are several reasons that servicemembers experience water shortages.

"Localized water shortages can occur and are often caused by power outages, system maintenance, or high demand," said Sgt. 1st Class Sylvannus Jones, a Directorate of Public Works Quality Assurance, Quality Control operations sergeant with Headquarters, Headquarters Company Area Support Group-Kuwait.

The water shortages that Camp Arifjan experiences are a result of water shortages in the local area, he said. These shortages affect military camps and the Kuwaiti citizens.

Arifjan implements short mandatory outages in order to curb severe outages that may last long periods of time.

Servicemembers and contractors living on the camps should remain conscious that there are limited water sources in Kuwait, said 1st Lt. Scott Flanders, Camp Patriot's civil engineer with the 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group.

"I like a nice long shower," said Jones, "but here you just don't have the luxury. Leaving the water running while brushing your teeth and shaving are old habits."

But the key to water shortage prevention is conservation.

"All U.S. military personnel sta-

tioned throughout Kuwait should practice water conservation at all times to help ease the burden on our host nation's water supply," said Jones, "ensuring there is water available for everyone's needs."

Accustomed to using as much water as they want at home, people forget water in Kuwait is a very limited resource, he said.

Water restrictions are difficult to enforce so water must be turned off completely in order to save water, he said.

Such strict measures would only be implemented in serious water shortage circumstances, said Flanders.

When the water supply becomes short, then the supply to the showers and washing machines must be cut, he said.

To save water and prevent a shortage before it occurs, Jones suggests that everyone practice conscious water consumption, such as turning the tap off while brushing their teeth or shaving.

Using the free laundry saves water on the camps because the laundry is done outside of the camps, he said.

"Wash full loads, set the water level to match the load size, and use short cycles [when doing your own laundry]," said Jones.

"Wash your vehicles at designated wash racks only," he said, "because



Photo by Spc. Debrah Robertson

Sgt. 1st Class Sylvannus Jones ascends a water tower to make adjustments to the system. Maintenance is an important part of the conservation effort.

wash racks recycle wash water."

Another way to save water is to report leaks to the facility manager in which the leak is found, said Jones. A large amount of water can be wasted even when a leak may seem small.

"Any waste [of water] affects everybody," he said. "It's a resource that once gone, can't be gotten back."

If a shortage does occur, water usage may be restricted.

"The command may close laundry and latrine facilities," said Jones. "and dining facilities may use disposable flatware and plates to reduce dish washing."

"Remember that water in Kuwait is not plentiful," advises Flanders.

The long soapy showers servicemembers enjoy may lead to days of bottled water baths.

Two families, one unit

■ Father, two sons serve in same unit

Story by
Sgt. Sarah Scully

Deployed Soldiers often create a family with the men and women they serve beside every day – they don't usually get the opportunity to see family members while in a combat zone.

But three National Guard Soldiers get to have the best of both worlds – their unit family and their natural family.

Serving at camps Buehring and Virginia, a father and two sons see each other on a regular basis while stationed with 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment of the Alaska National Guard, supporting Third Army/U.S. Army Central in Kuwait.

"I consider this shared experience with my sons a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and it's very rewarding as a father," said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Swanston Sr., father of Sgt. Andrew Swanston and Spc. Alex Swanston.

"None of us ever expected to serve together like this."

Working in the Kuwaiti



Courtesy Photo

[From left] Spc. Alex Swanston, Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Swanston Sr. and Sgt. Andrew Swanston stand together in uniform before deploying together to Kuwait.

desert, the men set aside time to talk about each others' day and experiences.

"We try and make time to catch up – it just makes it easier," said Alex, a 20-year-old supply specialist.

Alex and his 46-year-old father work in the same building at Camp Buehring during different

shifts. It's a bit harder for 26-year-old Andrew to communicate as easily from another camp.

But Andrew still gets advice from his father.

"He gives me guidance on how to be a better [noncommissioned officer]," said Andrew, an

infantry team leader, who got promoted right before deploying to Kuwait. "He's had a lot of experience."

A former Marine who deployed frequently during his sons' growing years,

Andrew Sr. instilled a respect for America and the military in his sons.

And when Sept. 11 happened,

each of the men felt a responsibility to serve their country.

"After 9/11, I felt I needed to do something rather than talk about it," said Andrew Sr. "I feel that my sons, through their service, have the same sense of... commitment, and these

experiences should carry with them through their lives like it has through mine."

Speaking about virtues such as honor and duty, the Soldiers look at their deployment as an adventure where they can serve their country.

"I like the excitement – knowing that every day has a purpose," said Andrew.

"And when all is said and done, we'll be able to go back

home and talk about things that most people would never experience."

With the holidays fast approaching, the family of Soldiers wants to spend more time together – but they know their missions come first.

"It's nothing new to us," said Andrew Sr.

Without the frigid temperatures and several feet of snow, the Swanstons strive to find the holiday spirit thousands of miles away from home.

But even if they're pulled away due to missions, they'll still be around family.

"My teammates become my family – everybody leans on each other," said Andrew.

"For me, that's the uniqueness about the military."

"None of us ever expected to serve together like this."

*- Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Swanston Sr.
3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment
Alaska National Guard*

Fire Prevention for the Holidays

Courtesy of the ASG Fire Prevention Office

As we enter the holiday season far from home, some of us may try to put the holiday spirit into our work and living areas. Unfortunately, fires can result if improper procedures and fire safety rules are ignored.

To ensure we all have a safe holiday season, the ASG Fire Prevention Office offers these important fire safety tips as you prepare for the holidays:

🍃 Candles of any type are not authorized, with the exception of approved religious services sponsored by the Base Chapel.

🍃 Live Christmas trees are restricted to public assembly locations that hold 50 or more people. Offices and living quarters are prohibited from having live trees; they, however, can use artificial trees as long as they are 230 volt, CE rated and listed. Transformers cannot be used in conjunction with artificial Christmas trees or electrical decorations.

🍃 Christmas tree lights may be used, only if they are CE listed and properly rated for indoor use. Lights are either

rated for indoor or outdoor use, not both.

🍃 Carefully inspect each electrical decoration before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, bare or loose wires can cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new CE-listed decorations.

🍃 Extension cord use is approved during the holiday season only. Extension cords must be the three-prong type, a minimum of 16 gauge and CE tested. Extension cords used for holiday purposes must be identified for hard or extra hard usage. No two wire extension cords are authorized. Do not overload extension cords.

🍃 Promptly remove Christmas decorations and lights after the holidays, to include extension cords. Remove any Christmas tree that starts dropping needles or becomes dried out.

🍃 If you have any questions concerning these fire safety tips, contact the ASG Fire Prevention Office at DSN 430-3154 or 430-3166.

Just One Question...

What's your talent?



"My talent is bowling. My goal is to achieve a perfect game of 300."

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Korrner
Motor Sergeant



"I won FOB Marez Idol in 2005, which is a talent contest for singing."

Spc. Richard Poe
Infantry
1-17th Infantry Regiment



"Glass blowing, because you can see how your project is going to turn out immediately."

Spc. Mark Roberts
Paralegal Specialist
Third Army/ U.S. Army



"Swing dancing, it's a great workout and you have fun with your partner at the same time and you can do it anywhere."

Spc. Montana Rodrigues
Light-Wheel Mechanic
62nd Engineer Battalion



"Throwing darts"

Tech. Sgt. Steven Smith
NCOIC Facilities Inspection
Team
45 CES Patrick Air Force

Hometown Hero



Sgt. 1st Class James McDonald
Platoon sergeant, Company B,
704th Support Bn., 4th Infantry
Division

McDonald's job is to ensure his Soldiers are trained and ready to accomplish their duties.

Talks about what he misses about his hometown, Killen, Texas

"Spending time with my family, taking my son fishing."

'Trotting for Troops

Harlem Globetrotters tour Kuwait, visit servicemembers and play an exhibition game against the Washington Nationals.



Story and photos by
Sgt. Sarah L. Scully
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Giving service members an opportunity to relax and enjoy some entertainment, the Harlem Globetrotters dropped by Camp Arifjan in Kuwait Nov. 28 to sign autographs and give a basketball game demonstration of their skills.

"We wanted to have a little relaxation and a little entertainment," said Petty Officer 1st Class Lynette King, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion supporting Third Army/U.S. Army Central.

First going to the Combined Operations and Intelligence Center, the "war room," the players signed team photos and basketballs before posing for pictures with the service members.

"They're celebrities, but they act like they're just like you and me," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ines Sanabria, Global Command and Control Systems for C6 who works in the COIC.

"They're here to show their support for us."

Hundreds of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines watched the Globetrotters run, pass and dunk through their famed routine of comedy and basketball at the Zone 1 gym. It was standing-room only as the players defeated the opposing team.

"It's stuff we wish we could do," said King. "I've always enjoyed watching them."

King credits their success with qualities that she and her Sailors also possess to accomplish their missions.

"Teamwork," she said. "They enjoy doing what they do – it's the same with us."



Clockwise from left: A Harlem Globetrotter dunks a basket during a demonstration game at Camp Arifjan. A Soldier gets instructions on how to spin a basketball. A Sailor does "The Robot" with the Globetrotters' mascot, "Globie."

